

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

220 South Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410.638.3373 Voice/TTY 410.803.0433 Fax
disability@harfordcountymd.gov

Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2006

Attendance*:

Members Present:

Susan Austin
Debbie Braam
Buddy Green
Councilman Guthrie
Kathy Halliday
Gil Kennedy
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Joan Loftus
Marc Weinstein

Members Absent:

Angela Barnett
Bob Coen
Stacey Hull
Keith Lewis
Rhia Perry
Keith Lewis

- I. Chairperson Buddy Green called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the November 28, 2005 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee: Membership:
 1. The following members have been reappointed to the Commission by the County Executive, with the approval of the County Council: Susan Austin, Angela Barnett, Gil Kennedy, Laurie Kwiedorowicz, Rhia Perry and Marc Weinstein.

Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities



2. Kathy Halliday has been appointed by the County Executive, with the approval of the County Council, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Carol Roughton.
- B. Accessibility Committee:
1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: The Commission approved an increase in the maximum loan available through the program to \$6500 due to an increase in the cost of materials.
 2. Housing Committee: Gil Kennedy reported that the Strategic Planning Committee of the Housing Coalition met with Jeff Paxton of Shelter Development, who reported on their proposed project to renovate and upgrade the Baldwin Manor community in Aberdeen as affordable rental housing
- C. Education Committee: Committee Chairperson Debbie Braam reported that the Expo will be held on March 18, 2006 at the New Life Center of the Mountain Christian Church on Mountain Road in Joppa. The Expo registration flyer is available in hard copy and on-line at the Commission's web page, www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities . Set-up for the Expo will take place at 4:30 p.m. on March 17, 2006 at the New Life Center. Volunteers are needed. Contact Debbie Braam or Sharon Grzanka for more information. Susan Austin will check to see if Harford County Public Schools have a portable microphone system to use at the Expo.
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee:
1. Commission web page: Visit the Commission web page to see this month's "Spotlight on Services" on the Core Service Agency. Bob Coen is following reports of "visits" to the web page to identify visitor trends and successful features.
 2. Legislative Committee: The Commission voted to seek approval through its Legislative Procedure to support the following legislation:

SB 10: Real Property - Condominiums - Conversion of Rental Facilities - Extended Leases
HB 3/SB 305: Veterans Advocacy and Education Act of 2006
SB 272: Income Tax - Credit for Motorized Shopping Carts

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report:

- A. The monthly update from the Maryland Department of Disabilities was distributed. It is also available on-line at www.mdtaf.org.
- B. Harford Habitat for Humanity (HHH) is holding orientation sessions for potential participants. For more information contact HHH at 410-638-4434.
- C. The Disabilities Office has a copy of "Speak Out About Inaccessible Telecommunication and Technology", a guide to advocacy in the area of telecommunications. Contact Sharon Grzanka for more information.
- D. The Harford County Department of Community Services has published its Annual Report for FY2005, which was distributed to Commission members. For more information, call 410-638-3389 voice/TTY.

V. Old Business:

- A. Transportation Steering Committee:
 - 1. As reported earlier, a team from Harford County has been selected to attend Easter Seals Project Action Mobility Planning Services Institute, April 22-25, 2006 in Washington, DC. Team members include: Commission member Joan Loftus; Cheryl Gable, Mobility Trainer/Coordinator; Angie Kading, Chief Dispatcher, Harford Transit; Gail Fricke, Vocational Services Director, the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region; and Pat Parker, Job Developer, Alliance, Inc.
 - 2. The Mobility Trainer/Coordinator's hours will increase from 20 to 35 hours per week as of January 30, 2006. The increase in hours is funded through a Systems Change Grant from the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

- B. Emergency Preparedness: The Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions and Committees on Disabilities made a report on Emergency Preparedness for Individuals with Disabilities on January 5, 2006 Winter Meeting of the Maryland Association of Counties in Cambridge. Mary Chance, Director of the Harford County Department of Community Services reported that the presentation was excellent, well-attended and well-received.
- C. Commission on Disabilities Annual Report: Has been forwarded to the County Executive and is available on-line at <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/services/disabilities/AnnualReport.pdf>.
- D. Commission Interview on Harford Cable Network (HCN): The interview aired during December 2005. HCN provided a DVD copy. Sharon Grzanka is looking into having it duplicated for distribution to Commissioners. More information to follow.
- E. Updating Commission brochure: No new information.
- F. Joppatowne High School: Councilman Guthrie reported that plans are being finalized to construct ramps leading to the school entrance from both sides of the parking lot.

VI. New Business:

- A. Division of Rehabilitation Services Regional Meeting: The Commission will host a public input meeting of the Division of Rehabilitation Services following the March 27, 2006 Commission on Disabilities meeting. Sharon Grzanka will check into the availability of the multipurpose room at the McFaul Center to accommodate increased attendance.
- B. Harford County Public Library (HCPL) Assistive Technology Open House: Commissioner Joan Loftus and Sharon Grzanka will attend a meeting with HCPL staff to explore a HCPL/ Commission co-sponsored event to highlight the library's accessible computer software and other assistive technology available in the community. More to follow.
- C. Youth Empowerment Alliance: Youth Representative Rhia Perry and Sharon Grzanka attended a meeting on January 6, 2006 about a self-advocacy program to be presented to transition age youth with disabilities. The training will be presented by a transition age youth with a disability, a transition age youth without a disability and an adult professional. More information to follow.

- VII. Public Comment and Announcements: There were none.
- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, February 27, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.